United Nations A/58/PV.60

General Assembly

Fifty-eighth session

Official Records

60th plenary meeting
Tuesday, 11 November 2003, 10.35 a.m.
New York

President: The Hon. Julian R. Hunte ..... (Saint Lucia)

The meeting was called to order at 10.35 a.m.

Agenda item 17

Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments

(a) Appointment of members of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/58/561)

The President: The General Assembly will consider a report of the Fifth Committee on sub-item (a) of agenda item 17, concerning the appointment of a member of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the report of the Fifth Committee which is before the Assembly today.

It was so decided.

The President: I should like to advise representatives that we are going to proceed to take a decision in the same manner as was done in the Fifth Committee.

The Fifth Committee recommends in paragraph 4 of its report that the General Assembly appoint Mr. Richard Moon of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as a member of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for a term of office beginning on 11 November 2003 and ending on 31 December 2004. May I take it that the General Assembly decides to appoint this person?

It was so decided.

The President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 17.

Agenda item 15

Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs

(b) Election of eighteen members of the Economic and Social Council

Letter from Portugal (A/58/357)

The President: As was announced at the 59th plenary meeting yesterday, the Assembly will first proceed to a by-election to elect a member of the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with rule 140 of the rules of procedure.

In this connection, I should like to draw the attention of members to document A/58/357, containing a letter dated 10 September 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations. In his letter, the Permanent Representative of Portugal announces that Portugal would like to relinquish its seat on the Economic and Social Council for the remainder of its term in favour of Turkey.

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

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As a result, a vacancy will occur and a new member must therefore be elected to fill the unexpired term of office of Portugal, commencing on 1 January 2004 and expiring on 31 December 2005.

In accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 2847 (XXVI) of 20 December 1971, and taking into account that the vacancy will occur from among the Western European and other States, the new member should therefore be elected from that region.

I should like to inform the Assembly that the candidate which receives a two-thirds majority of members present and voting will be declared elected. In the case of a tie vote, there will be a special restricted ballot limited to those candidates that have obtained an equal number of votes.

May I take it that the General Assembly agrees to that procedure?

It was so decided.

The President: In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, the election shall be held by secret ballot, and there shall be no nominations.

Also in connection with this election, I would like to remind members that, in accordance with Article 19 of the Charter and resolution 58/1 of 16 October 2003, two member States will not be given ballot papers.

Regarding the vacancy, the Chairman of the Group of Western European and other States for the month of November has informed the Secretariat that the Group has endorsed Turkey.

In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, we shall now proceed to the election by secret ballot.

I should like to inform members that, as of 1 January 2004, the following States from the Group of Western European and other States will be represented on the Economic and Social Council: Australia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The names of those eight States should therefore not appear on the ballot.

Before we begin the voting process, I should like to remind members that, pursuant to rule 88 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order on the actual conduct of the voting.

We shall now begin the voting process.

Ballot papers will now be distributed. I request representatives to use only those ballot papers and to write on them the name of the one State for which they wish to vote. A ballot paper containing more than one name from the region will be declared invalid. The name of a Member State on a ballot paper that does not belong to that region will not be counted at all.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Daté-Yao (Côte d'Ivoire), Mr. Rajalingam (Fiji), Mrs. Gordon (Haiti) and Mr. Sigtryggson (Iceland) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 10.45 a.m. and resumed at 11.15 a.m.

The President: The result of the voting is as follows:

Number of ballot papers:	187
Number of invalid ballots:	4
Number of valid ballots:	183
Abstentions:	6
Number of members voting:	177
Required two-thirds majority:	118
Number of votes obtained:	
Turkey	155
United States of America	6
Belgium	5
Canada	5
Portugal	3
Italy	2
Israel	1

The President: Having obtained the required two-thirds majority, Turkey has thus been elected a member of the Economic and Social Council for a term of office beginning on 1 January 2004 and ending on 31 December 2005.

I congratulate Turkey, which has been elected a member of the Economic and Social Council.

The General Assembly will next turn to the election of 18 members of the Economic and Social Council to replace those members whose term of office expires on 31 December 2003. The 18 outgoing members are: Andorra, Argentina, Brazil, Egypt,

Ethiopia, Georgia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Italy, Nepal, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, the Republic of Korea, Romania, South Africa, Uganda and the United States of America. Members will recall that Portugal relinquished its seat on the Economic and Social Council, effective 1 January 2004, and that Turkey has just been elected to fill that vacancy.

As of 1 January 2004, the following States will be represented on the Economic and Social Council: Australia, Azerbaijan, Benin, Bhutan, Burundi, Chile, China, the Congo, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Zimbabwe. The names of these 36 States should therefore not appear on the ballots.

In accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 2847 (XXVI) of 20 December 1971, and taking into account the number of States that will remain members of the Council after 1 January 2004, the 18 members should be elected as follows: five from African States, four from Asian States, two from Eastern European States, three from Latin American and Caribbean States and four from Western European and other States. The ballot papers reflect this pattern.

I should like to inform the Assembly that those candidates, their number not exceeding the number of seats to be filled, who receive the greatest number of votes and a two-thirds majority of members present and voting, will be declared elected. In the case of a tie vote for a remaining seat, there will be a special restricted ballot limited to those candidates that have obtained an equal number of votes.

May I take it that the General Assembly agrees to that procedure?

It was so decided.

The President: In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, the election shall be held by secret ballot and there shall be no nominations.

Regarding candidatures, the Chairmen of the respective regional Groups have informed the Secretariat that, for the five vacant seats from among the African States, the Group has endorsed five candidates, namely Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, Tunisia and the United Republic of Tanzania.

For the four vacant seats from among the Asian States, there are six candidates, namely Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Korea and the United Arab Emirates.

For the two vacant seats from among the Eastern European States, there are three candidates, namely Armenia, Belarus and Poland.

For the three vacant seats from among the Latin American and Caribbean States, the Group has endorsed three candidates, namely Belize, Colombia and Panama.

For the four vacant seats from among the Western European and other States, the Group has endorsed four candidates, namely Belgium, Canada, Italy and the United States of America.

In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, we shall now proceed to the election by secret ballot.

Before we begin the voting process, I should like to remind members that, pursuant to rule 88 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order on the actual conduct of the voting.

We shall now begin the voting process.

Ballot papers marked "A", "B", "C", "D" and "E" will now be distributed. I request representatives to use only those ballot papers and to write on them the names of the States for which they wish to vote.

A ballot paper containing more names from the relevant region than the number of seats assigned to it will be declared invalid. Names of Member States on a ballot paper which do not belong to that region will not be counted at all.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Daté-Yao (Côte d'Ivoire), Mr. Moushoutas (Cyprus), Mr. Rajalingam (Fiji), Mrs. Gordon (Haiti), Mr. Sigtryggson (Iceland) and Ms. Rastovac (Serbia and Montenegro) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 10.30 a.m. and resumed at 1.10 p.m.

The President: The result of the voting is as follows:

Group A — African States

Number of ballot papers:	188
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	188
Abstentions:	1
Number of members voting:	187
Required two-thirds majority:	125
Number of votes obtained:	
Tunisia	186
Namibia	183
Mauritius	180
Nigeria	180
United Republic of Tanzania	175
Mauritania	1

Group B — Asian States

Number of ballot papers:	188
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	188
Abstentions:	1
Number of members voting:	187
Required two-thirds majority:	125
Number of votes obtained:	
United Arab Emirates	167
Bangladesh	143
Republic of Korea	133
Indonesia	130
Cambodia	121
Kyrgyzstan	31
Pakistan	1

Group C — Eastern European States

Number of ballot papers:	188
Number of invalid ballots:	1
Number of valid ballots:	187
Abstentions:	1
Number of members voting:	186
Required two-thirds majority:	124
Number of votes obtained:	
Armenia	127
Poland	123
Belarus	112
Republic of Moldova	3
Romania	1

Group D — Latin American and Caribbean States

Number of ballot papers:	188
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	188
Abstentions:	3
Number of members voting:	185
Required two-thirds majority:	124
Number of votes obtained:	
Belize	180
Colombia	179
Panama	179

Group E — Western European and other States

Number of ballot papers:	188
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	188
Abstentions:	7
Number of members voting:	181
Required two-thirds majority:	121
Number of votes obtained:	
Belgium	176
Italy	172
Canada	171
United States of America	165
Israel	1
Portugal	1

Having obtained the required two-thirds majority, Armenia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize, Canada, Colombia, Indonesia, Italy, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, Panama, Republic of Korea, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania and United States of America were elected members of the Economic and Social Council for a three-year term beginning 1 January 2004.

The President: There remains one seat to be filled from among the Eastern European States.

We shall therefore proceed to a restricted ballot.

This second round of balloting shall be restricted to the two States from among the Eastern European States that were not elected but that obtained the largest number of votes in the previous ballot, namely Belarus and Poland. That is in accordance with rule 94 of the rules of procedure.

Before we begin the voting process, I should like to remind members that, pursuant to rule 88 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order on the actual conduct of the voting.

We shall now begin the voting process.

Ballot papers marked "C" will now be distributed.

May I ask representatives to write on the ballot papers the name of the one State for which they wish to vote. Ballot papers marked "C" for the Eastern European States will be declared invalid if they contain the name of a State other than Belarus or Poland or if they contain the names of more than one State.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Rajalingam (Fiji), Mrs. Gordon (Haiti), Mr. Sigtryggson (Iceland) and Ms. Rastovac (Serbia and Montenegro) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 1.25 p.m. and resumed at 1.45 p.m.

The President: The result of the voting is as follows:

Group C — Eastern European States

Number of ballot papers:	184
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	184
Abstentions:	1
Number of members voting:	183
Required two-thirds majority:	122
Number of votes obtained:	
Poland	108
Belarus	75

This restricted ballot has been inconclusive. There still remains one seat to be filled from among the Eastern European States.

In accordance with the rules of procedure, we should continue with the series of restricted ballots. However, in view of the late hour, I propose that we postpone further balloting until 3.30 p.m. this afternoon.

I should like to thank the interpreters for the patience they have shown in this matter.

Programme of work

The President: I should like to make an announcement regarding the programme of work of the plenary for the morning of Monday, 17 November.

As members will recall, the General Assembly will take up first agenda item 16 (a), "Election of forty-three members of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law".

In addition, as the second item, the General Assembly will take up agenda item 16 (c), "Election of seven members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination".

As the third item, the Assembly will resume consideration of agenda item 20, "Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies", to take action on the draft resolution contained in document A/58/L.15.

The meeting rose at 1.50 p.m.

United Nations A/58/PV.61

General Assembly
Fifty-eighth session

Official Records

61st plenary meeting
Tuesday, 11 November 2003, 3.30 p.m.
New York

President: The Hon. Julian R. Hunte ..... (Saint Lucia)

The meeting was called to order at 3.35 p.m.

Agenda item 15 (*continued*)

Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs

(b) Election of eighteen members of the Economic and Social Council

The President: As members will recall, when the 60th plenary meeting was adjourned earlier today, there still remained one seat from among the Eastern European States to be filled.

In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, we shall proceed now to the third round of balloting, by secret ballot, for the remaining seat.

The third round of balloting shall be restricted to the two States from among the Eastern European States that were not elected but that obtained the largest number of votes in the previous ballot, namely Belarus and Poland. That is in accordance with rule 94 of the rules of procedure.

Also in connection with this election, I would like to remind members that, in accordance with Article 19 of the Charter and resolution 58/1 of 16 October 2003, two Member States will not be given ballot papers.

Before we begin the voting process, I should like to remind members that, pursuant to rule 88 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order on the actual conduct of the voting.

We shall now begin the voting process.

Ballot papers marked "C" will now be distributed.

May I ask representatives to write on the ballot papers the name of the one State for which they wish to vote. Ballot papers marked "C" for the Eastern European States will be declared invalid if they contain the name of a State other than Belarus or Poland or if they contain the names of more than one State.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Rajalingam (Fiji), Mrs. Gordon (Haiti), Mr. Sigtryggson (Iceland) and Ms. Rastovac (Serbia and Montenegro) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 3.50 p.m. and resumed at 4.20 p.m.

The President: The result of the voting is as follows:

Group C — Eastern European States

Number of ballot papers:	172
Number of invalid ballots:	6
Number of valid ballots:	172
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	172
Required two-thirds majority:	115

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Number of votes obtained:

Poland	113
Belarus	59

Since, again, no candidate obtained the required two-thirds majority in the previous ballot, there still remains one seat to be filled from among the Eastern European States.

We shall therefore proceed to the third restricted ballot. I would like to remind members that this shall be the last restricted ballot in this series.

This fourth round of balloting shall be restricted to the two States from among the Eastern European States that were not elected but that obtained the largest number of votes in the previous ballot, namely Belarus and Poland. That is in accordance with rule 94 of the rules of procedure.

Before we begin the voting process, I should like to remind members that, pursuant to rule 88 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order on the actual conduct of the voting.

We shall now begin the voting process.

Ballot papers marked "C" will now be distributed.

May I ask representatives to write on the ballot papers the name of the one State for which they wish to vote. Ballot papers marked "C" for the Eastern European States will be declared invalid if they contain the name of a State other than Belarus or Poland or if they contain the names of more than one State.

I call on the representative of Belarus on a point of order.

Mr. Ivanov (Belarus) (*spoke in Russian*): I should like to thank all the delegations that have voted in favour of the Republic of Belarus, but I wish to announce that the Republic of Belarus is withdrawing its candidacy from the fourth round of balloting.

The President: Taking into account the statement made by the representative of Belarus, we shall proceed to the current restricted ballot in accordance with rule 94 of the rules of procedure.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Rajalingam (Fiji), Mrs. Gordon (Haiti), Mr. Sigtryggson (Iceland) and Ms. Rastovac (Serbia and Montenegro) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 4.35 p.m. and resumed at 4.45 p.m.

The President: The result of the voting is as follows:

Group C — Eastern European States

Number of ballot papers:	170
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	170
Abstentions:	8
Number of members voting:	162
Required two-thirds majority:	108
Number of votes obtained:	
Poland	144
Belarus	18

Having obtained the required two-thirds majority, Poland was elected a member of the Economic and Social Council for a three-year term beginning 1 January 2004.

The President: The following 18 States have thus been elected members of the Economic and Social Council for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2004: Armenia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize, Canada, Colombia, Indonesia, Italy, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, Panama, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, the United Republic of Tanzania and the United States of America.

I congratulate those States which have been elected members of the Economic and Social Council and commiserate with those which have not. I thank the tellers and all those who participated in this process for their assistance in this election.

This concludes our consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 15.

The meeting rose at 4.50 p.m.